

25X1

Bouterse's Reaction to Invasion Rumors

According to Embassy reporting, Bouterse met in emergency session with the Topberaad--Bouterse's main advisory group--on December 8 to inform the council that a foreign invasion of Suriname was about to be launched. The Embassy report gave no information on the source of the rumors.

- Bouterse speculated that invasion plans may have been sparked by recent reports of Bush Negro killings in Eastern Suriname.
- In an uncharacteristic move, Bouterse asked party leaders to advise him on measures to be taken. Bouterse reportedly agreed to an election timetable, based on the Topberaad's advice that such a move might stave off the invasion.

The Embassy also reports that contacts have advised them that offensive measures also are being contemplated.

- According to the Dutch Ambassador, the Topberaad may extend the state of emergency presently in effect in the east to Paramaribo and the rest of the country.
- Rumors are circulating that preparations are underway for large-scale arrests of business and political leaders, including some cabinet members.
- The Embassy comments that although these rumors may merely reflect the tense atmosphere of the moment, Bouterse could still "lash out" at his enemies as happened before.

25X1